

## REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claim 24 has been amended. Claims 24-30 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, in that the Examiner considered recitation of a longitudinal slot formed in the upper wall of the "distal portion of the" elongated tubular member, "removal of the embolic coil and distal segment of the pusher member through the slot," and "less than about 10 cm with no slot" to be new matter. Accordingly, these limitations have been deleted from Claim 24, and it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph can be withdrawn.

Claims 24-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Diaz et al. as a matter of design choice, and further in view of Ahmed, further as a matter of design choice. Claim 24 has been amended to recite "the sheath remaining attached to a segment of the flexible pusher member." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at page 7, line 7. As is explained at page 7, lines 7-18, this feature facilitates initiation of loading of the flexible pusher member into the sheath. The sheath can be pulled off along the slot, left attached to the flexible pusher member while the flexible pusher member is loaded into a microcatheter, and reloaded back onto the flexible pusher member starting at the connected location and progressing toward an end of the flexible pusher member, allowing the embolic coil to be used again at a later time. As is explained in the specification at page 2, lines 3-14, detachable vasoocclusive devices fixed to a flexible pusher member for delivery may be withdrawn

without being detached if the coils are not correctly sized, or are not correctly positioned, so that the vasoocclusive devices may not be able to be reused during a patient procedure if they are removed during the procedure, due to the inability to reload the device into the microcatheter. The present invention overcomes this problem.

The Examiner indicated that Diaz et al. teaches a device in which the sheath is attached to a segment of the flexible pusher member. However, as is apparent from Figs. 4-6 of Diaz et al., the sheath 12 can easily slide over the deployment catheter and embolic coil, so that the sheath may be removed from the deployment catheter and embolic coil, which is prevented in the present invention by the sheath remaining attached to a segment of the flexible pusher member, as is claimed.

Ahmed was cited as disclosing angled winged flanges, and it also apparent from Ahmed that the tube 12 does not remain attached to the stem S, and that the stem S can also be easily removed from the tube 12. It is accordingly respectfully submitted that the claims as amended patentably distinguish the combination of Diaz et al. and Ahmed, and that the rejection of Claims 24-30 on the grounds of obviousness from Diaz et al. as a matter of design choice, and further in view of Ahmed, further as a matter of design choice, should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or fees in connection with this amendment to Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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